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COMICS



#12

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MACKIE
BYRNE
KRYSSING

THE AMAZING

SPIDER-MAN



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DIRECT EDITION



\$2.99 US \$4.50 CAN

RETURN OF THE
SINISTER SIX!

PART
1 OF 2

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He's Big! He's Green!
He's just in time for breakfast!

Post Kids REPTAR CRUNCH

NICKELDEON

Rugrats

LIMITED EDITION
Post Kids
REPTAR CRUNCH
SWEETENED RICE CEREAL



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At a demonstration on Radiation, high school student PETER PARKER was bitten by an Irradiated Spider from which he gained the Arachnid's Incredible Abilities. When a burglar killed his beloved Uncle Ben, a grief-stricken Peter vowed to use his Great Powers in the service of his fellow man, because he learned an invaluable lesson: With Great Power must also come Great Responsibility. Stan Lee Presents THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN in:

ANOTHER RETURN OF THE SINISTER SIX!!

WHY IS IT THAT MY DAYS ALWAYS HAVE TO BEGIN THIS WAY?

ALL I WANTED WAS TO MAKE AN EARLY EXIT FROM MY JOB AT TRICORP, SO I COULD GET HOME, GROVEL INTENSELY AND SEE IF MY SUPER-MODEL WIFE CAN FORGIVE ME FOR BEING SUCH A BIG FAT LIAR!

BUT NO.

MY BOSS CATCHES ME DUCKING OUT EARLY, GIVES ME ANOTHER LECTURE ABOUT HOW I'M SKATING ON THIN ICE UNLESS I START PAYING ATTENTION TO MY RESEARCH PROJECTS, AND THEN, WHEN I DO GET OUT THE DOOR...TWO HOURS LATER...

...I FIND MYSTERIO, MASTER OF ILLUSION, CONJURING SOME SORT OF MAJOR STORM ATOP THE WORLD TRADE CENTER AND SCARING A QUARTER OF THE CITY HALF TO DEATH!

SO NOW I'M GOING TO BE EVEN LATER... AND MARY JANE IS GOING TO BE EVEN MORE MAD AT ME... AND...

MYSTERIO?!

I THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD!

HOWARD MACKIE / JOHN L. BYRNE
story and art

BEATTY & RAMOS
inks

JOE ROSAS
colors

RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT'S TROY PETERI
letters

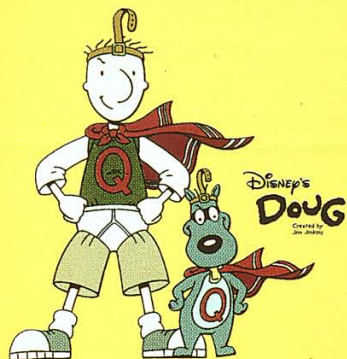
RALPH MACCHIO
editor

BOB HARRAS
chief

* See events in the new classic DAREDEVIL #7 --- Ralf-without-fear

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Disney's
Doug
Created by Jim Jenkins



New!
Sabrina
The Animated Series.

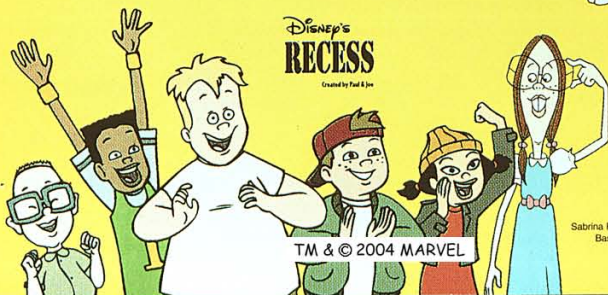
You only get One Saturday Morning.

Catch all new episodes of Doug, Pepper Ann, Recess and Mickey MouseWorks.
And look out for all kinds of stuff you've never seen before.
Remember, Sabrina has joined the gang... surprises are part of her job.

Disney  .com



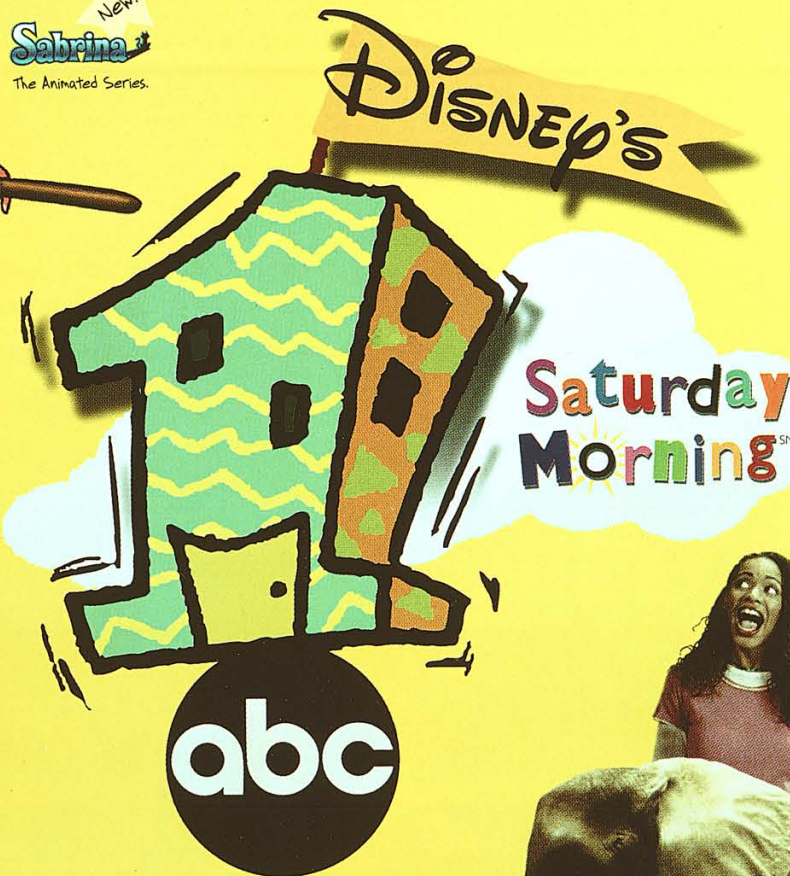
Disney
**Mickey
Mouse
Works**



Disney's
RECESS
Created by Paul & Joe

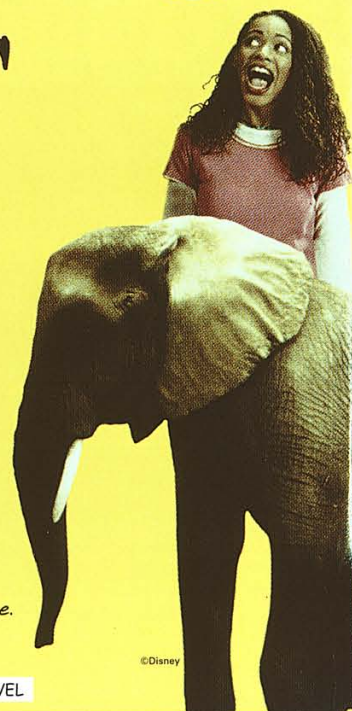
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Based on characters appearing in Archie Comics.



Disney's
PEPPER ANN

Check local listings for time.



©Disney

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ER...
MYSTERIO...NO
OFFENSE HERE,
OR ANYTHING,
BUT...

...WHAT'S
GOING ON
WITH YOU
LATELY?
I MEAN...
I HEARD YOU'D
KILLED YOURSELF
RIGHT IN FRONT
OF DAREDEVIL...
AND I KNOW THAT
GUY DOESN'T
FALL FOR THE
ILLUSION THING
TOO EASILY.

EXACTLY
HOW HE DOES
IT IS BEYOND
ME!

BUT YOU
KNOW...THAT
WHOLE FLASH
THOMPSON PERFECT
WORLD THING...AND NOW
THIS...WHATEVER
THIS IS SUPPOSED
TO BE?

WHAT'S
GOING ON?

SPIDER-MAN,
BY THE TIME YOU
OR ANYONE ELSE
UNEARTHS THE
TRUTH...IT WILL
BE FAR TOO
LATE.

DID I
KILL MYSELF
IN FRONT OF
DAREDEVIL?
PERHAPS.

OR WAS
THAT NOT
ME?

MAYBE
THE MAN YOU
HAVE KNOWN AS
MYSTERIO IS
DEAD AND I
AM SOMEONE
ELSE.

MAYBE
I'VE NEVER
BEEN WHO YOU
THINK I AM.

MAYBE...

...IT'S
TIME THAT
I, TOO,
DIE!

No!

I KNOW THIS ISN'T HAPPENING!

IT'S AN ILLUSION!

JUST LIKE THE STORM AND EVERYTHING ELSE ABOUT MYSTERIO!

THE GUY'S JUST PLAYING ME!

HE'S NOT FALLING!

HE'S NOT GOING TO DIE!

NOT ON MY WATCH --!

FWAM

FOOM

AND YET...

THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT HIM.

IT WAS TRUE EVEN THE LAST TIME I FACED HIM.

MAYBE... NAH!

HE'S DEAD!

SPIDER-MAN KILLED MYSTERIO!

JUST LIKE HE DID TO THAT JOEY Z GUY!

COME ON, PEOPLE! LET'S USE OUR HEADS. THIS IS MYSTERY! MASTER OF ILLUSION! HE'S NOT DEAD --

OKAY.

I'M JUST GOING TO LET THE POLICE SORT THIS WHOLE THING OUT.

WHY DO I EVEN BOTHER?

JONAH AND HIS EDITORIALS IN THE DAILY BUGLE HAVE GOT THIS ENTIRE CITY SO CONVINCED THAT I'M ONE OF THE BAD GUYS THAT IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT I DO.

AND HOW MUCH BETTER OFF WOULD I HAVE BEEN IF I'D JUST GIVEN UP THE WHOLE SPIDER-MAN THING?

A GOOD AND CHALLENGING JOB THAT I LOVE! A GREAT AND BEAUTIFUL WIFE THAT I LOVE EVEN MORE! MY LIFE WOULD BE PERFECT...

...EXCEPT FOR THE WEBB.

I'M NEVER GOING TO BE ACCEPTED AS A HERO.

OH, WELL... TIME FOR GROVELING: STAGE TWO!

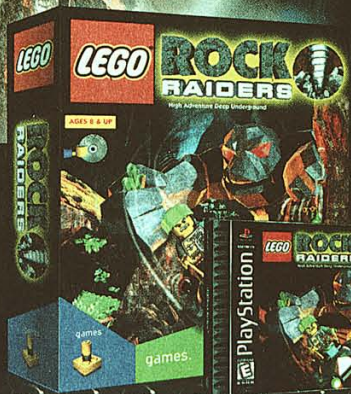
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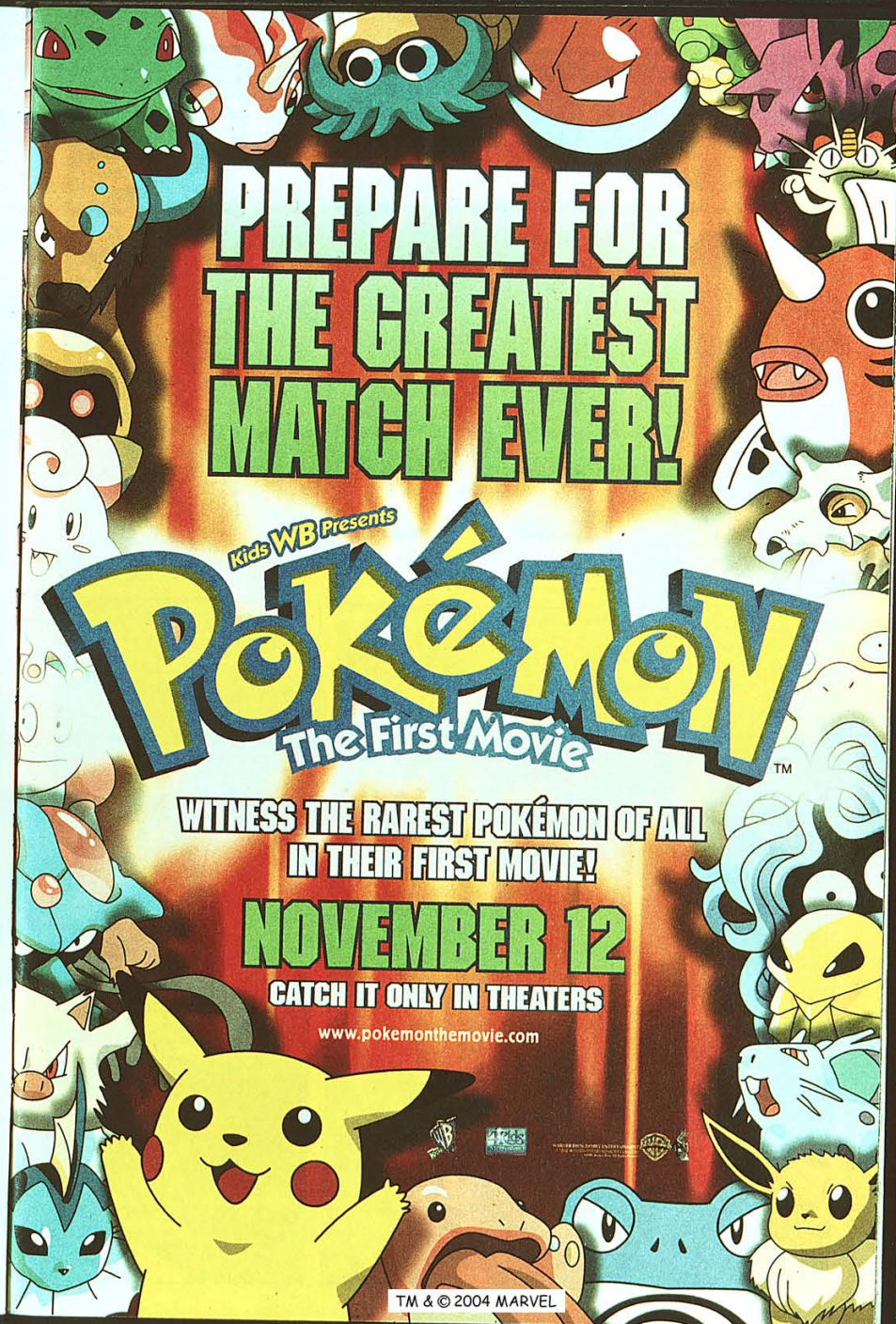
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* See Amazing Spider-Man #11 -- Horrified Ralf.

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BESIDES, MJ NEEDS ME RIGHT NOW. SHE NEEDS BOTH OF US. GO! TALK TO YOUR WIFE. MAKE THINGS RIGHT BETWEEN YOU.

I'VE BEEN TRYING.



BACK OFF, BUDDY! NO ONE GETS TOO CLOSE TO MS. PARKER TODAY!

I'M HER --

HUSBAND. IT'S OKAY, GARTH. THANKS.



CAN WE TALK?

PETER...I DON'T KNOW... WE'VE GONE OVER IT ALL SO MANY TIMES BEFORE. I -- PLEASE?



WE CAN'T AVOID TALKING, MJ.

WE SEEM TO HAVE DONE A PRETTY GOOD JOB SO FAR.

TOUCHÉ.



YES...I DIDN'T TELL YOU ABOUT MY GETTING BACK INTO THE SPIDER-MAN COSTUME AFTER I'D SAID I QUIT.

YES...I LIED TO YOU, BUT...YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM NOW. THIS STALKER IS DANGEROUS.

I WANT TO HELP. I WANT TO KEEP YOU SAFE.

YOU MEAN SPIDER-MAN WILL, DON'T YOU?



NOW WOULD THAT BE THE SPIDER-MAN I KNOW, OR THE ONE WHO ISN'T YOU?



WAIT! MAYBE THEY'RE THE SAME! I WOULDN'T KNOW!



MJ, IF YOU'D JUST LET ME EXPLAIN...

PETER, OUR LIFE TOGETHER HAS BEEN NOTHING BUT ENDLESS EXPLANATIONS.

I JUST DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT ANY MORE.



BEING MARRIED TO SPIDER-MAN IS WORSE THAN BEING MARRIED TO A POLICEMAN.

AT LEAST A POLICEMAN'S WIFE WOULD GET A CALL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.

I'M JUST TOO YOUNG...

...AND NOT IN THE MOOD.

NOW I'VE GOT TO GET BACK INSIDE. I'VE GOT THE PRESS...A PHOTO SHOOT...AND A FLIGHT IN A COUPLE OF DAYS...



BULLPEN BULLETINS

AVAILABLE OCTOBER 20TH

BISHOP: THE LAST X-MAN

The outlaw camp of refugees has been laid waste by the Chronomancer's army of time-warping automats. Because Bishop didn't act, the blood of children has been spilled. But now the Last X-Man is going after his hated enemy... and he's not going alone! By JOSEPH HARRIS and GEORGES JEATY

CAPTAIN AMERICA

The evil organization known as Hydra is about to detonate a bomb that will obliterate half of New York City! And to stop the explosion, Captain America will have to go through both the Absorbing Man and his old enemy Crossbones! By TOM DEFalco and RON FRENZ!

DAREDEVIL

Introducing ECHO, a new villain so strange you'll swear you're hearing her name over and over and over...! Meanwhile Cupid slaps MATT MURDOCK upside the head as a new romantic interest enters his still shattered life. By DAVID MACK and JOE QUESADA!

FANTASTIC FIVE

Determined to solve the mysterious disappearance of Mr. Fantastic and the Invisible Woman, the wingless Wizard sends his Warriors to kidnap Franklin Richards! Unfortunately for the bad guys, the Richards' boy has a date with a certain web-spinning stunner! By TOM DEFalco and PAUL RYAN!

GALACTUS THE DEVOURER

Earth's heroes witness the rebirth of one of the Devourer's former heralds... the Silver Surfer! And things go from bad to worse as the Surfer leads the hungry Galactus straight for the homeworld inhabited by his former love, Mantis! By LOUISE SIMMONSON and JOHN BUSCEMA!

HULK

Framed by Tyrannus for the deaths of hundreds of innocents, the jade giant has become the most hated — and hunted — figure in the Marvel Universe! First it was the Avengers, then it was Wolverine — now Bruce Banner's attempts to clear his name lead to a confrontation with the Thing! By RON GARNEY

PETER PARKER SPIDER-MAN

Senator Stewart Ward frames Spider-Man as a criminal and strikes a secret deal with the Sinister Six (with new teammate Venom) to hunt down — and kill — the web-slinger! And our beloved and bedeviled hero may be a sitting duck as the Mary Jane and stalker scenario reaches its unbearable finale! By HOWARD MACKIE and JOHN ROMITA JR.!

THUNDERBOLTS

The mystery behind the Thunderbolts' new headquarters is unveiled! The truth behind Jo's recent behavior comes to light! And two much-requested characters return to the series! By KURT BUSIEK and MARK BAGLEY!

X-51

M-Tech's mechanical mainstay goes for a round of "Rock 'Em Sock 'Em Robots" when he collides with the premier artificial being in the Marvel Universe — the amazing AVENGER known as the VISION! By MIKE HIGGINS, KARL BOLLERS and JOE BENNETT

X-MAN

Therod's back — but she ain't quite what she used to be! The deadly mutant wants something from X-Man, but is it his love — or his life? By TERRY KAVANAGH and MIKE MILLER!

X-MEN

What is his connection to the force that has been stalking the X-Men for months — and what is his interest in Polaris? And while our heroes deal with this crisis, elements from "The Shattering" begin to form a very frightening pattern — one that has dire implications for a group of mutants known only as... The Twelve! By ALAN DAVIS!

X-MEN: CHILDREN OF THE ATOM

While Charles Xavier makes contact with the young students who will become the X-Men, and the man called Magneto consolidates his own deadly team, a new hate group attacks the minority that the scientific community calls mutants. Their methods? Terrorism, destruction and murder! By JOE CASEY and STEVE RUDE!

BULLPEN BITS #23

SO, YOU'RE A PAPERBOY NOW, EH, SPIDEY? THAT'S A HECK OF A DIRTY JOB!

DIRTY? IT'S NOT DIRTY!



SURE IT IS! LOOK AT HOW MUCH NEWSPRINT COMES OFF ON MY FINGERS FROM HOLDING JUST ONE NEWSPAPER! YOU MUST BE COVERED BY THE END OF YOUR PAPER-ROUTE!



WELL, SURE, CYCLOPS... IT GETS ON MY HANDS AND FINGERS. BUT IT'S NOT LIKE...



...WHOA!



STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes! Know something? I suddenly realize I'm a Soapbox Junkie! I'm hooked on reading your letters and writing the answers. I've become a fanatic about giving away No-Prizes. It's a habit that I can't break. I can't stop myself! I've already written about half a dozen new columns this week; in fact, it's now July 24th and this one won't see print till some time in October, and I still can't stop! Can any of you help me? Does anyone have a cure? Or, is this to be my fate till the end of my days? Well, enough with the soul-searching. I can't wait to read, relish and absorb the next few letters...

"Many writers have further developed the characters you, Jack Kirby and the rest of the original Marvel Bullpen have created. One development that always intrigued me is the revelation that Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch are Magneto's children. Did that relationship ever occur to you while you were writing the X-Men and the Avengers?" No, Jeff.

How's that? Brief. Succinct. Efficient. Right to the point. Typical of my own economical nature. And now, the piece de resistance, the moment you've been breathlessly awaiting — our emotion-charged mailing address: Soapbox, Marvel, 387 Park Ave S, NY NY 10016, plus our award-winning e-mail call letters: stanfanz@aol.com. I'm heartbroken. I suddenly realize we've come to the end. I've no room left to write any more. Alas, we have to leave each other when there's so much left to say. Well, I'll seek solace in the fact that there's always next ish. So, till then, I wish you a most heartfelt— EXCELSIOR!

Stan Lee



Who's the best sidekick for Wolverine?

Shadowcat? Nightcrawler? Elektra? Jubilee? Cannonball? Marvel wants to know your opinion on this and other subjects near and dear to a Marvelite's heart! Every Monday, make your voice heard to all of Marveldom!

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This week's chat schedule!

10/21 @ 9:30pm ET EARTH'S MIGHTIEST CHAT with Writer, KURT BUSIEK and Editor, TOM BREVOORT!

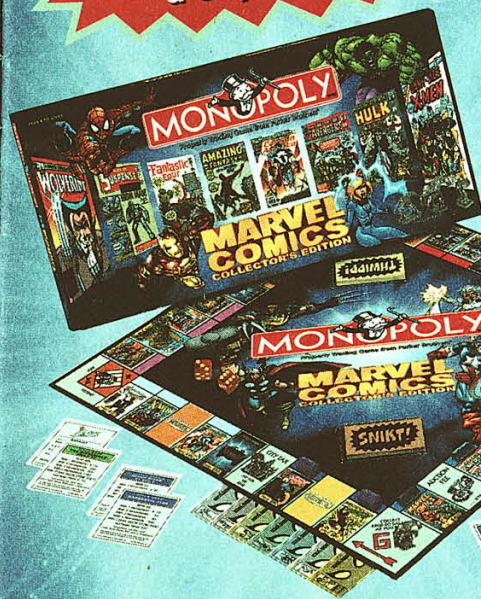
10/23 @ 8pm ET SPIDER-MAN and THOR Penciler -- JOHN ROMITA, JR.!

AOL Keyword: Marvel

All Chat schedules subject to change/cancellation

Refer to Keyword: Marvel > Astral Plane > Chat Schedule for latest schedule.

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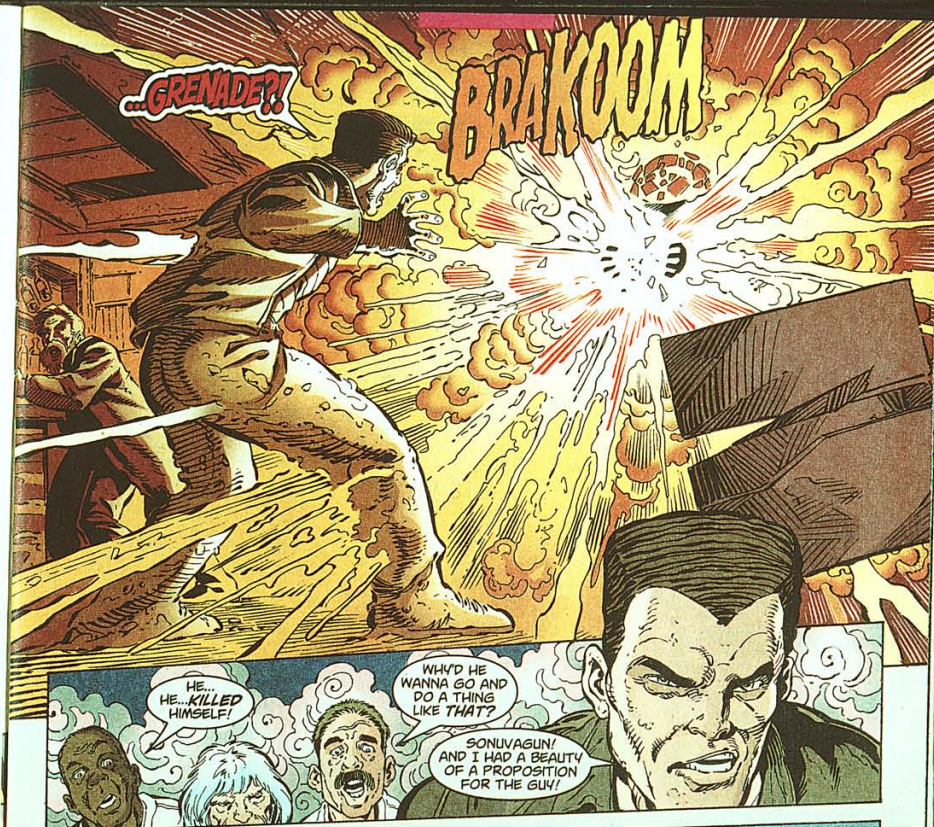
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AND LATER STILL...

HAD TO GET OUT OF THERE TO CLEAR MY HEAD.

THERE'S NOT EVEN A CHANCE THAT MJ AND I COULD TALK THINGS THROUGH WITH ALL THOSE HANGERS ON LURKING AROUND.

I KNOW THIS WILL PASS, SHE AND I HAVE BEEN THROUGH WORSE... MUCH WORSE, BUT --

-- WHOA! WHAT WAS THAT? NOT MY SPIDER-SENSE, BUT... LIKE SOMEONE WALKING OVER MY GRAVE.

THAT WAS TOO WEIRD.

THIS STALKER THING HAS GOT ME SPOOKED. I FEEL SO HELPLESS...

VENOM, DOC OCK, GREEN GOBLIN -- THEM, I KNOW HOW TO HANDLE, BUT...

...ONE LONE NUT CASE AND I'M STUMPED.

I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT IF I COULD FIND THIS GUY I COULD START MAKING THINGS RIGHT WITH MJ.

BUT HOW TO FIND HIM?

HE COULD BE RIGHT AROUND THE NEXT CORNER AND I WOULDN'T KNOW HIM IF I SAW HIM.

I'M GOING TO NEED SOME HELP.

IF ONLY ARTHUR STACY WAS AROUND. HE'S A PRIVATE EYE. HE'D KNOW WHAT TO DO.

HMM? ARTHUR? WELL...IF I CAN'T FIND THE STALKER...

...MAYBE IT'S TIME FOR ME TO TURN MY ATTENTION TOWARD ARTHUR AND HIS OBSESSIONS.

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CENTRAL PARK:

A PLACE OF PREDATORS...

NO! LEAVE ME ALONE!

...PREV...

C'MON LADY, WE AIN'T GOIN TO HURT YOU... MUCH!

...AND TONIGHT...

...THE HUNTER!

RUN. SEPARATE IF YOU WILL.

ANY WHO ESCAPE THE PARK...

...WILL BE ALLOWED TO LIVE.

WHAT IS THIS?

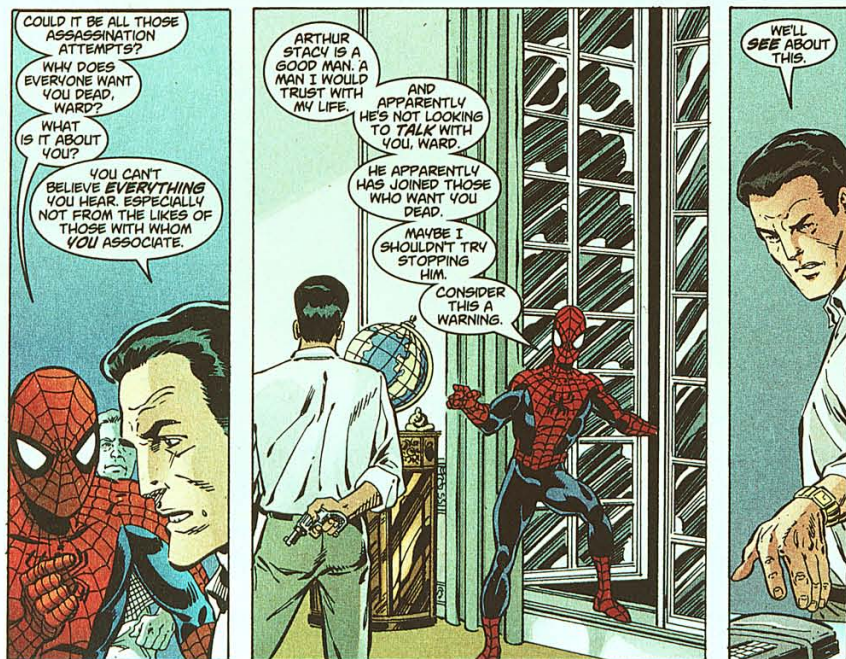
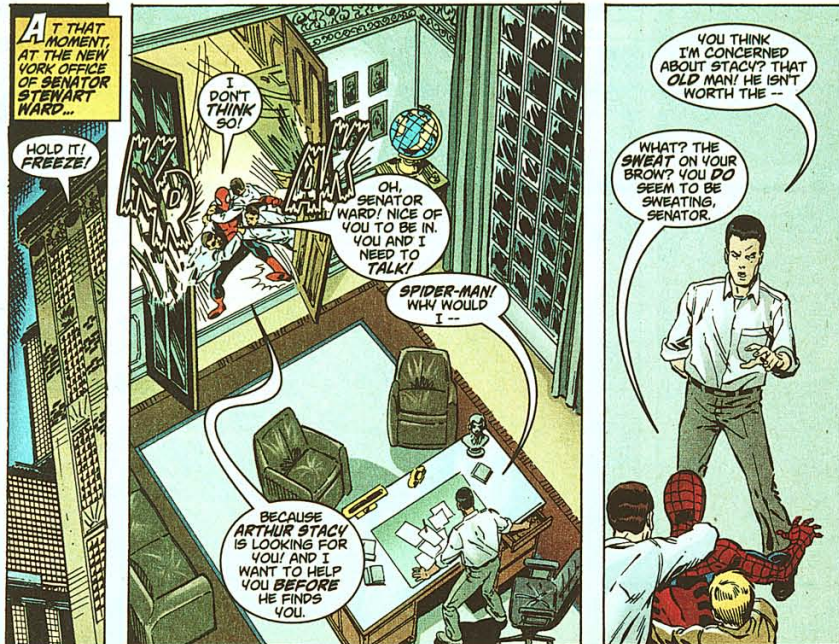
YOU'RE KRAVEN, RIGHT? SECOND GENERATION THEY TELL ME. I USED TA RUN WITH YER OLD MAN IN A GROUP CALLED THE SINISTER SIX.

WHY WOULD THIS CONCERN ME?

BECAUSE I'M HERE TO MAKE YOU AN OFFER 'A SOME PRETTY BIG GAME. THE BIGGEST.

ALLOW ME TO FINISH UP HERE... THEN WE'LL TALK.

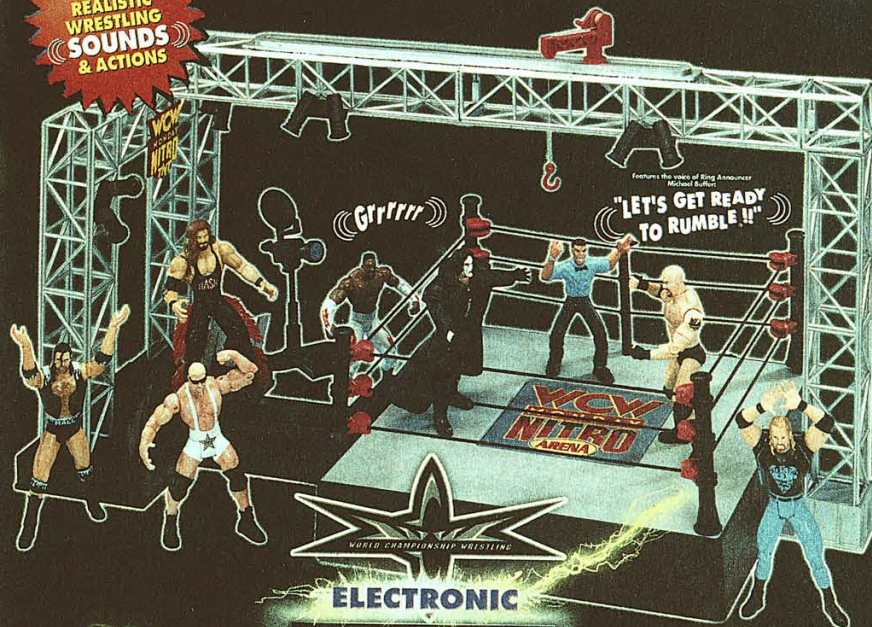
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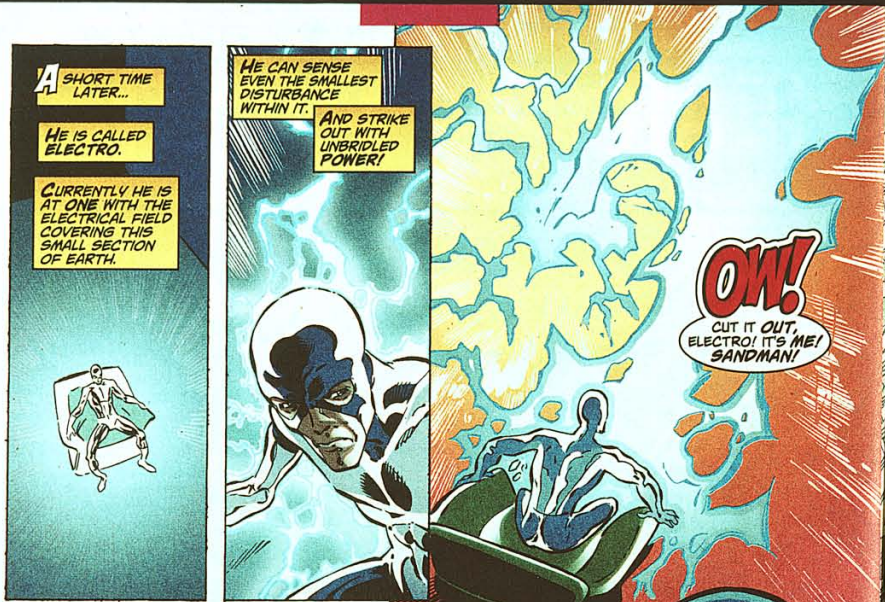
FIGURES NOT INCLUDED. RECOMMENDED FOR AGES 4 AND UP

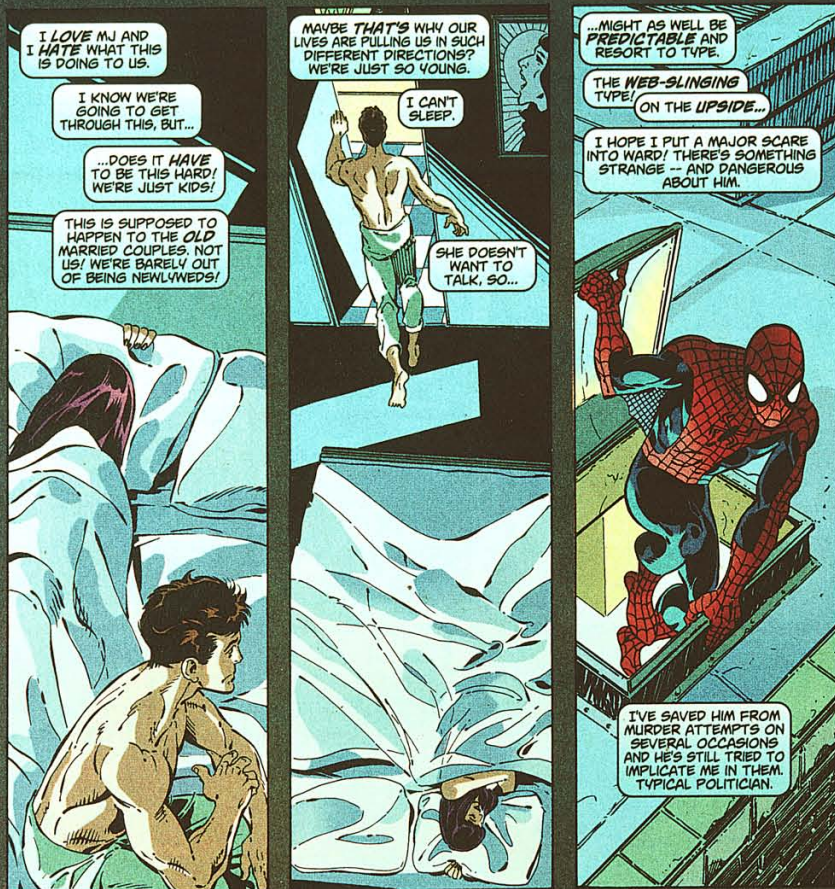
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DAILY BUGLE

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DOOM'S DAY IS HERE!

Doctor Doom Returns To The Marvel Universe!



HEROES REBORN: DOOMSDAY

The Heroes Reborn Earth stands on the brink of Armageddon! They need a savior... they get Doom!

On Sale Nov. 3rd

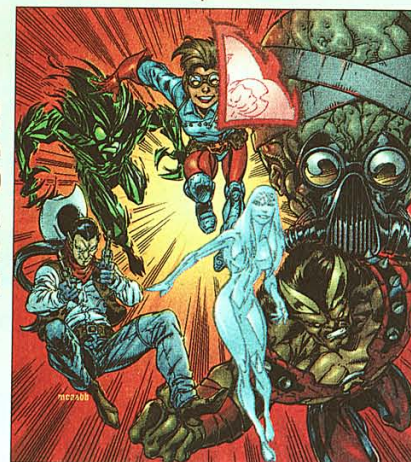
7 One-Shots!
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1 Infamous Villain!

HEROES REBORN: YOUNG ALLIES

Four new freedom fighters join

Bucky to liberate a planet!

On Sale Nov. 10th!



PLUS: YOUR MAP TO THE EVENT! (SEE LAST PAGE OF INSERT)

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HEROES REBORN: DOOMSDAY

Samantha Dunbar has seen her city nearly swallowed by the ocean... now she's about to witness another shocking event!

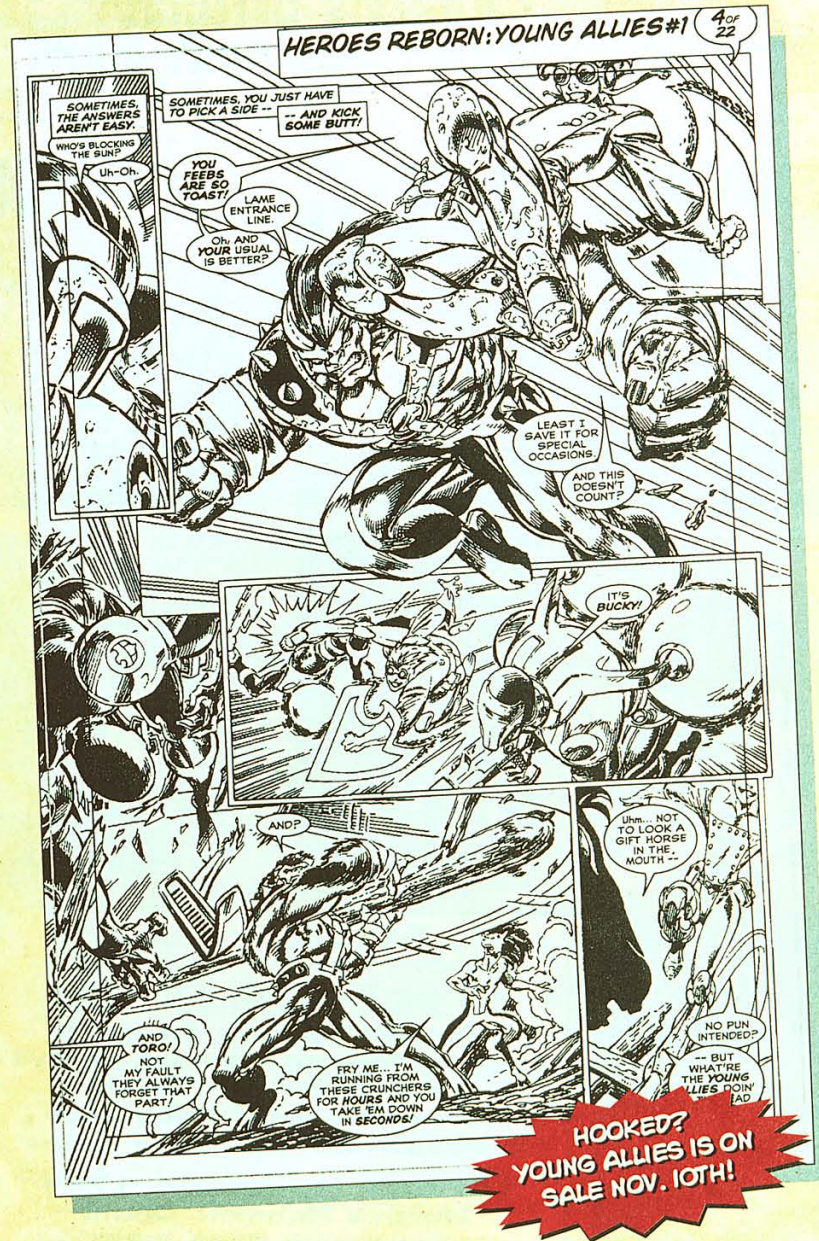
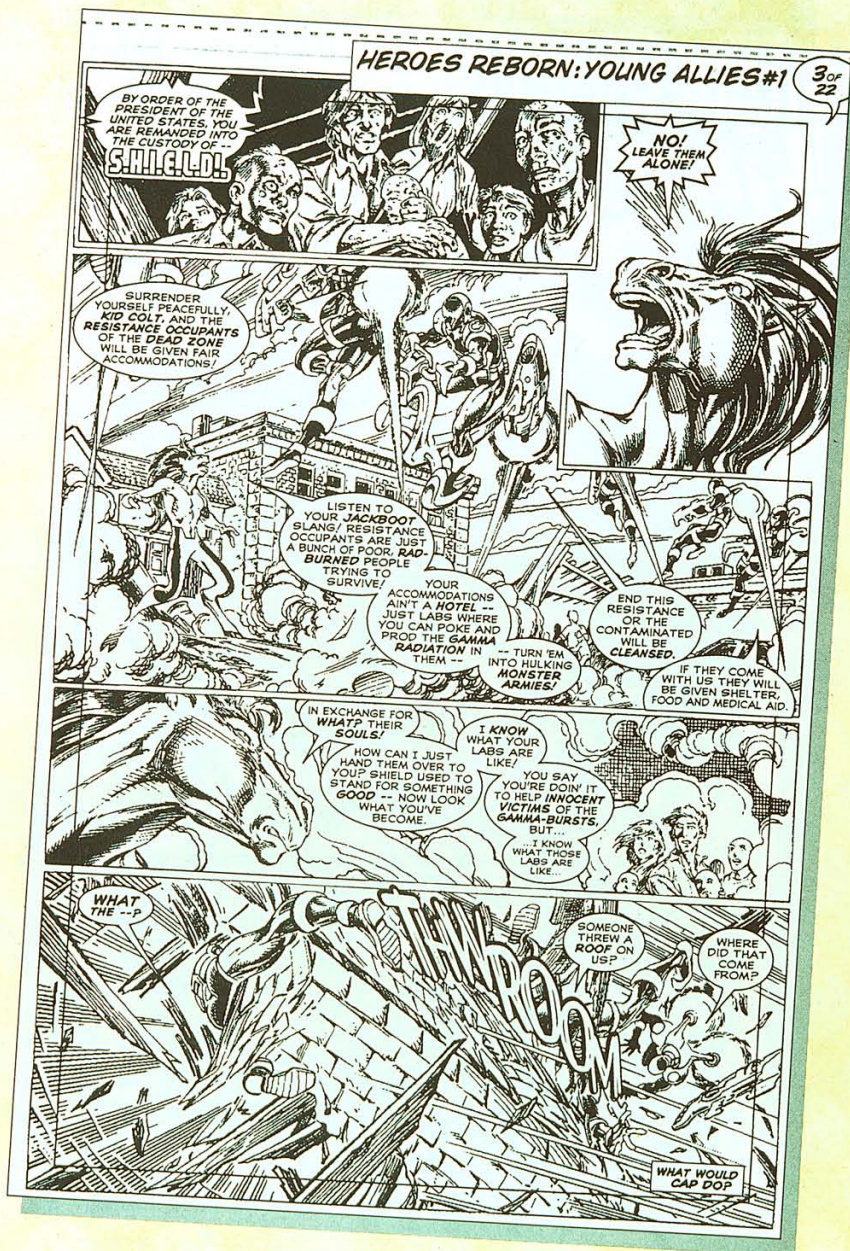




HEROES REBORN Young Allies

Kid Colt is hunted by S.H.I.E.L.D.... but help is on the way! Find out who!





THE DAILY BUGLE'S OFFICIAL HEROES REBORN: DOOMSDAY MAP

Marvel's Greatest Villain Returns! The Fate Of An Entire World Hangs In The Balance! Strange New Heroes Arise To Save The Day!



On Sale November 3rd
Heroes Reborn: Doomsday

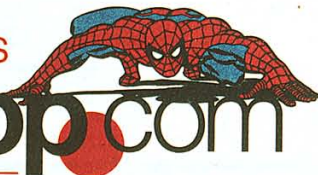
On Sale November 10th
Heroes Reborn: Ashema
Heroes Reborn: Masters Of Evil
Heroes Reborn: Rebel
Heroes Reborn: Remnants
Heroes Reborn: Young Allies

On Sale November 17th
Heroes Reborn: Doom
Fantastic Four #25

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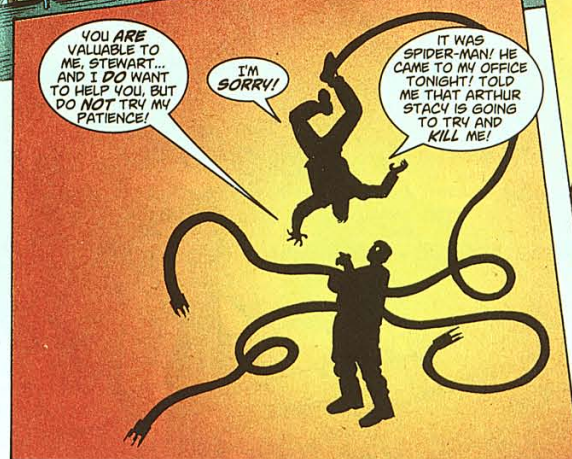
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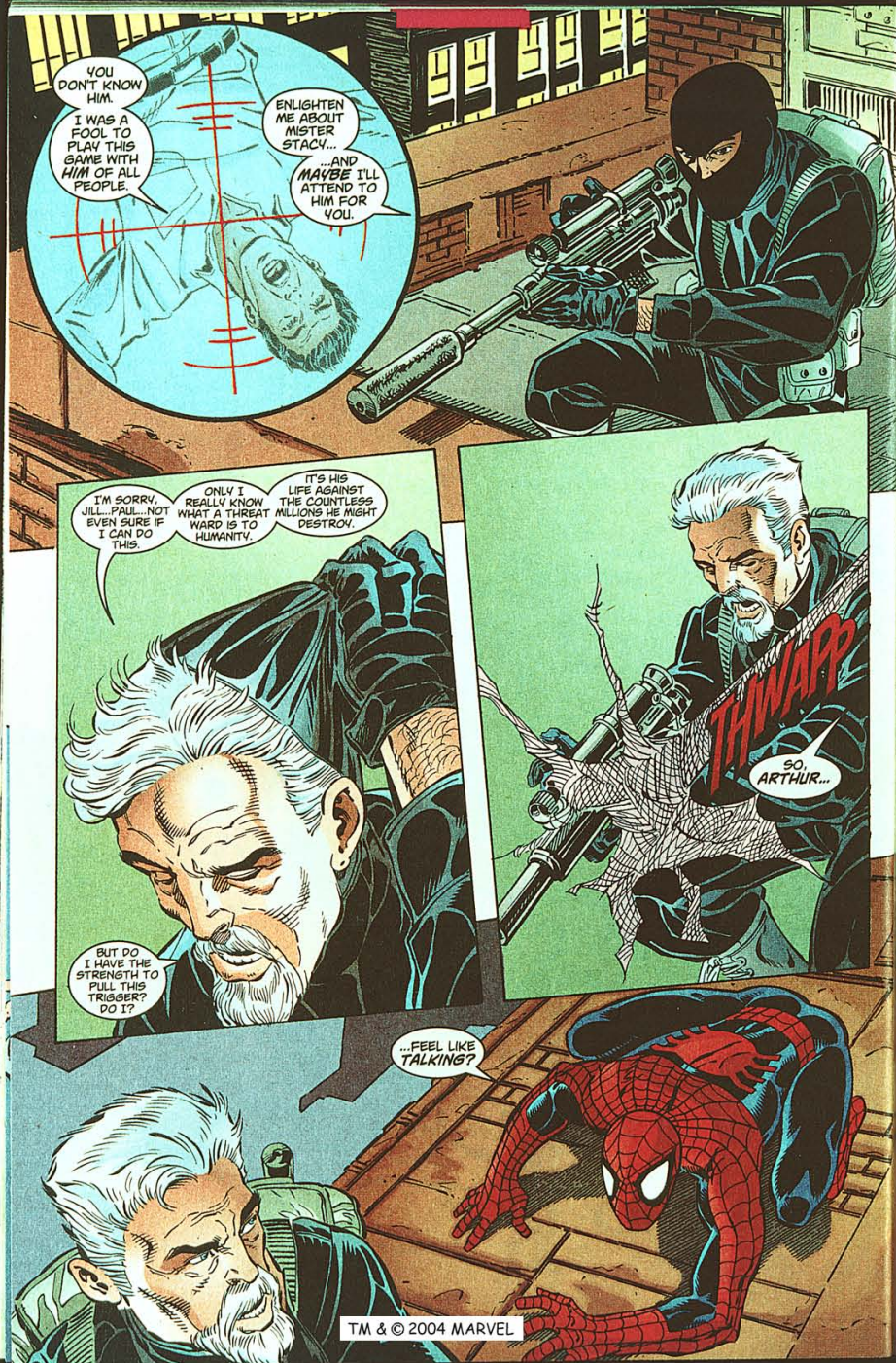
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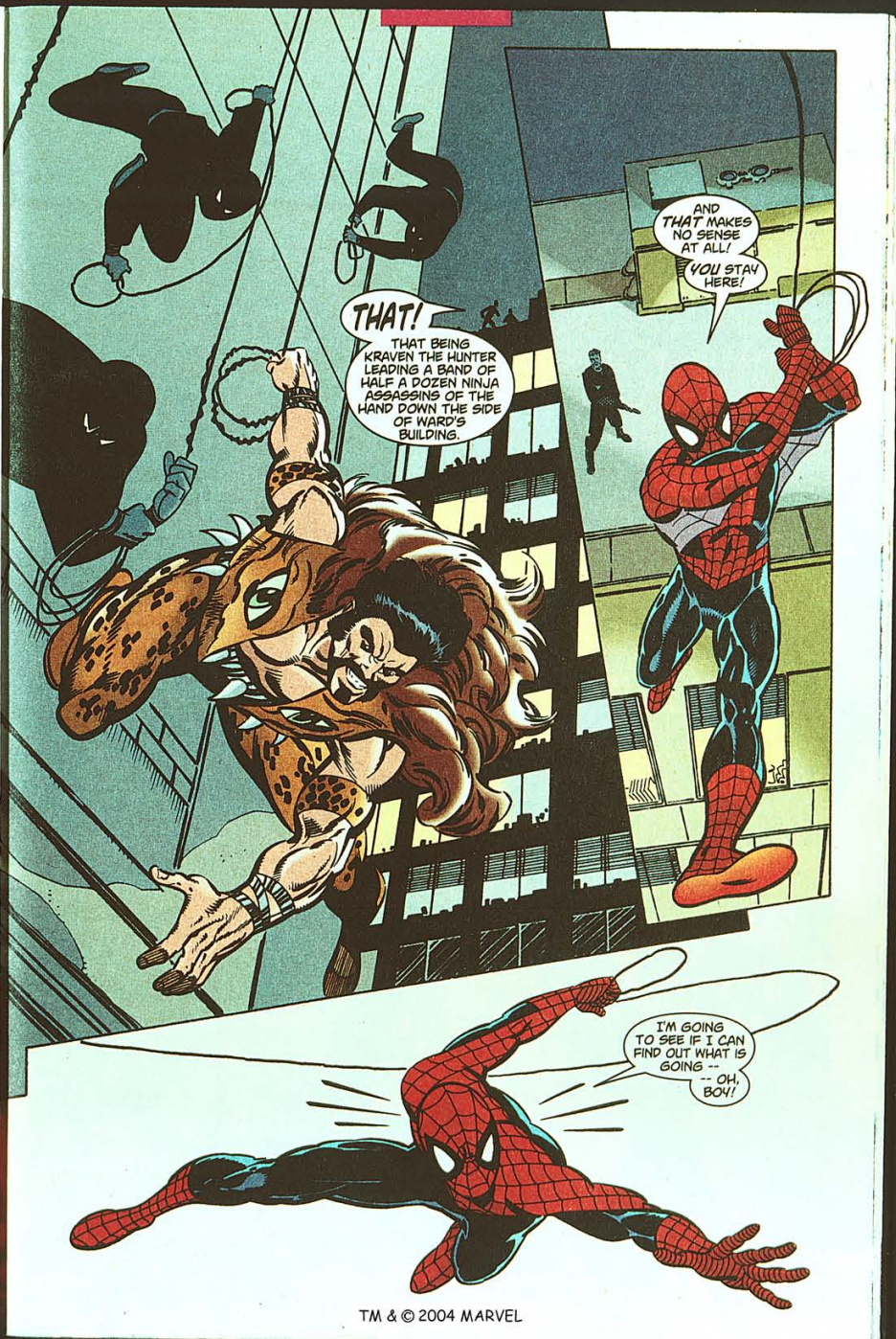
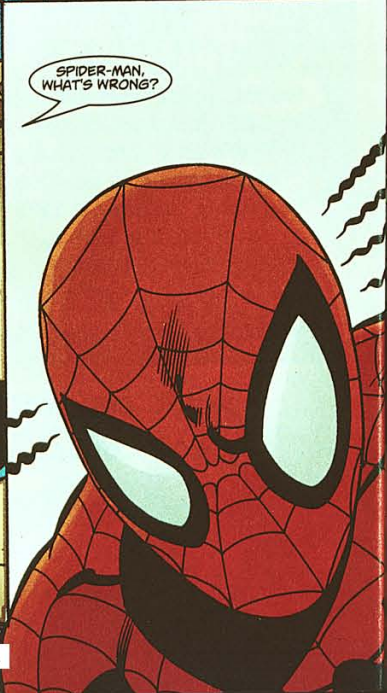
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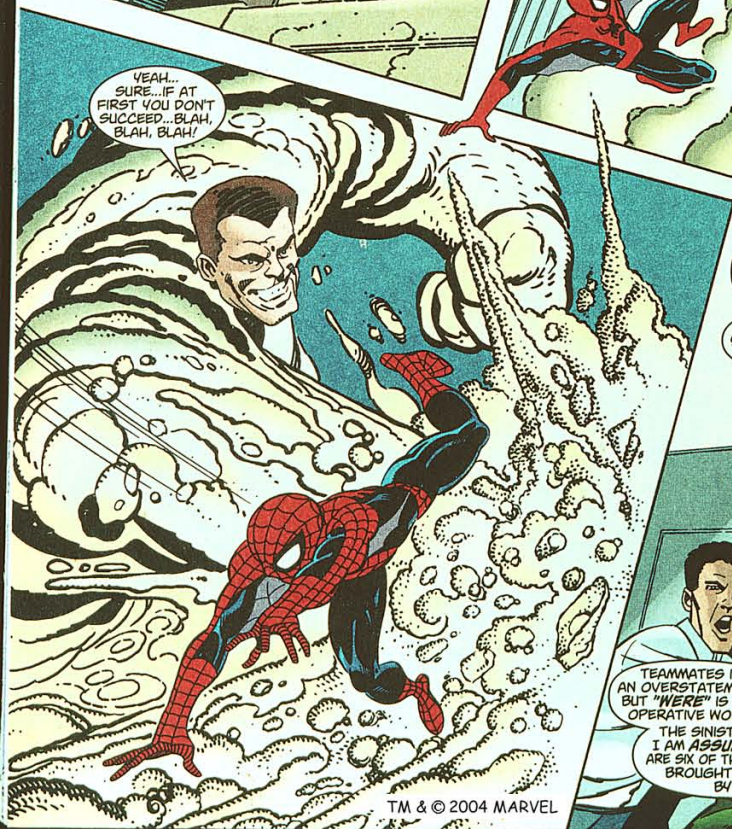


SO NOW THE GOOD SENATOR HAS REALLY ATTRACTED THE BIG GUNS! KRAVEN... VULTURE... ELECTRO... ILLUSORY BIRDS... I AM SEEING A PATTERN HERE.

YEAH, WELL... YOU AIN'T GOIN' TO BE SEEING MUCH ELSE!

SANDMAN?! YOU TAKING ANOTHER PASS AT WARD? *

See Amazing Spider-Man #14 -- Rememberin' Ralf.



YEAH... SURE... IF AT FIRST YOU DONT SUCCEED... BLAH, BLAH, BLAH!

THIS WAS NOT PART OF THE PLAN, OCTAVIUS! DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS!

THEY WERE YOUR TEAMMATES, WERENT THEY?

TEAMMATES IS AN OVERSTATEMENT. BUT "WERE" IS THE OPERATIVE WORD.

THE SINISTER SIX, AND I AM ASSUMING THERE ARE SIX OF THEM, WERE NOT BROUGHT TOGETHER BY ME.



BINGO!

THE PLAN REALLY SEEMS TO BE COMING TOGETHER --



OKAY, SO I'M A LITTLE OUTNUMBERED HERE.

I'VE HANDLED WORSE, AND I'VE TAKEN THESE LOSERS ON BEFORE COLLECTIVELY.

WHAT DO I DO FIRST?

FORMULATE A PLAN! YEAH! THAT'S IT!

SECOND...?



STOP TALKING TO MYSELF!

THIRD... FIND THE GUY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GIANT BIRDS AND THE NINJA!



-- OOPS! FORGOT NUMBER FOUR!



STAY AWAY FROM THE GUY WEARING THE LEOPARD SKIN TIGHTS AND CARRYING THE REALLY SHARP KNIVES!

FINE!

ANY PLAN CAN STAND A LITTLE REFINEMENT!

I'M FLEXIBLE!

I CAN ADAPT! THINK ON THE RUN!

I...

...AM STILL TALKING TO MYSELF!



BAWHUMPF



MYSTERIO? I THOUGHT YOU...

NO, YOU AREN'T HIM, ARE YOU?

YOU WILL NOT LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO FIND OUT, OCTAVIUS.



COME HERE, SENATOR. YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT!

ZZZAT



I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE! THIS WAS NEVER PART OF THE DEAL!

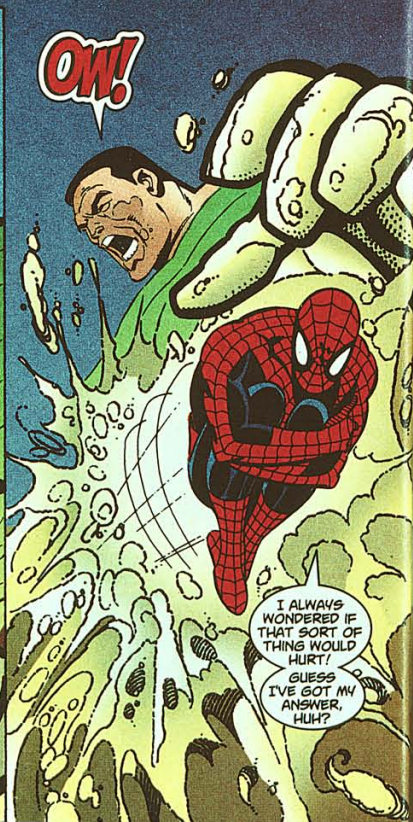
ANY OF THE DEALS!

YOU'RE A DEAL-MAKER, SENATOR... AREN'T YA?

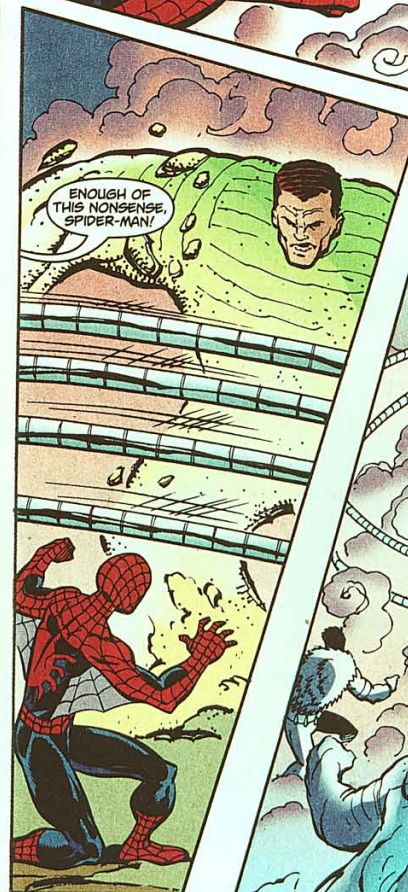


SANDMAN! I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU'RE BEING PAID, BUT I'LL --

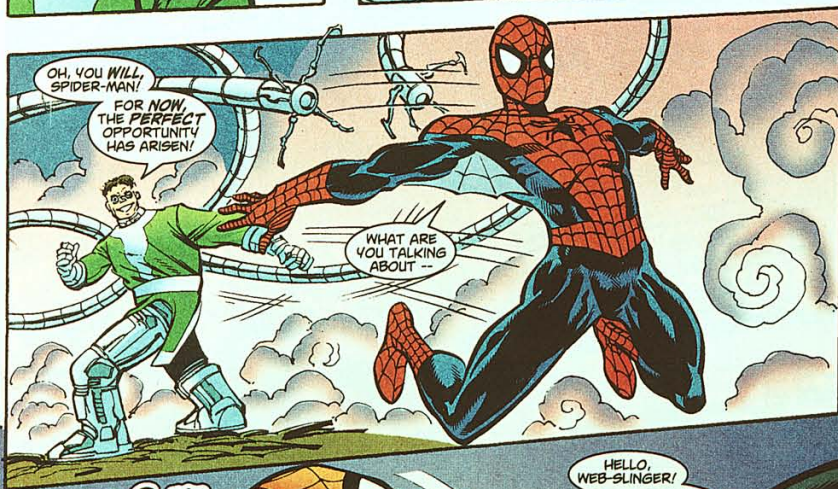
SAVE IT! THIS IS ABOUT MORE THAN MONEY! NOW THAT I WENT BACK TO MY OLD WAYS, I CAN KNOCK OVER A BANK WHENEVER I WANT.



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...QUENTIN
BECK.

STUNT
MAN.

ACTOR.

SPECIAL
EFFECTS
TECHNICIAN.

YOU ARE
PROBABLY
MORE FAMILIAR
WITH THE CRIMINAL
IDENTITY OF...

...MYSTERIO.

A LIFE, AND
DEATH WHICH
HAS BEEN PLAYED
OUT AS AN OPEN
BOOK AMONGST THE
TABLOIDS, CRIME JOURNALS
AND LESS REPUTABLE
PAPERS.

BUT...

...CAN
YOU BELIEVE
EVERYTHING
YOU READ?

WITH
MYSTERIO...
CAN YOU BELIEVE
EVERYTHING YOU
SEE? CAN YOU
LEARN THE TRUTH
WITHIN THE
FICTION?

LET
THERE BE
LIGHT!

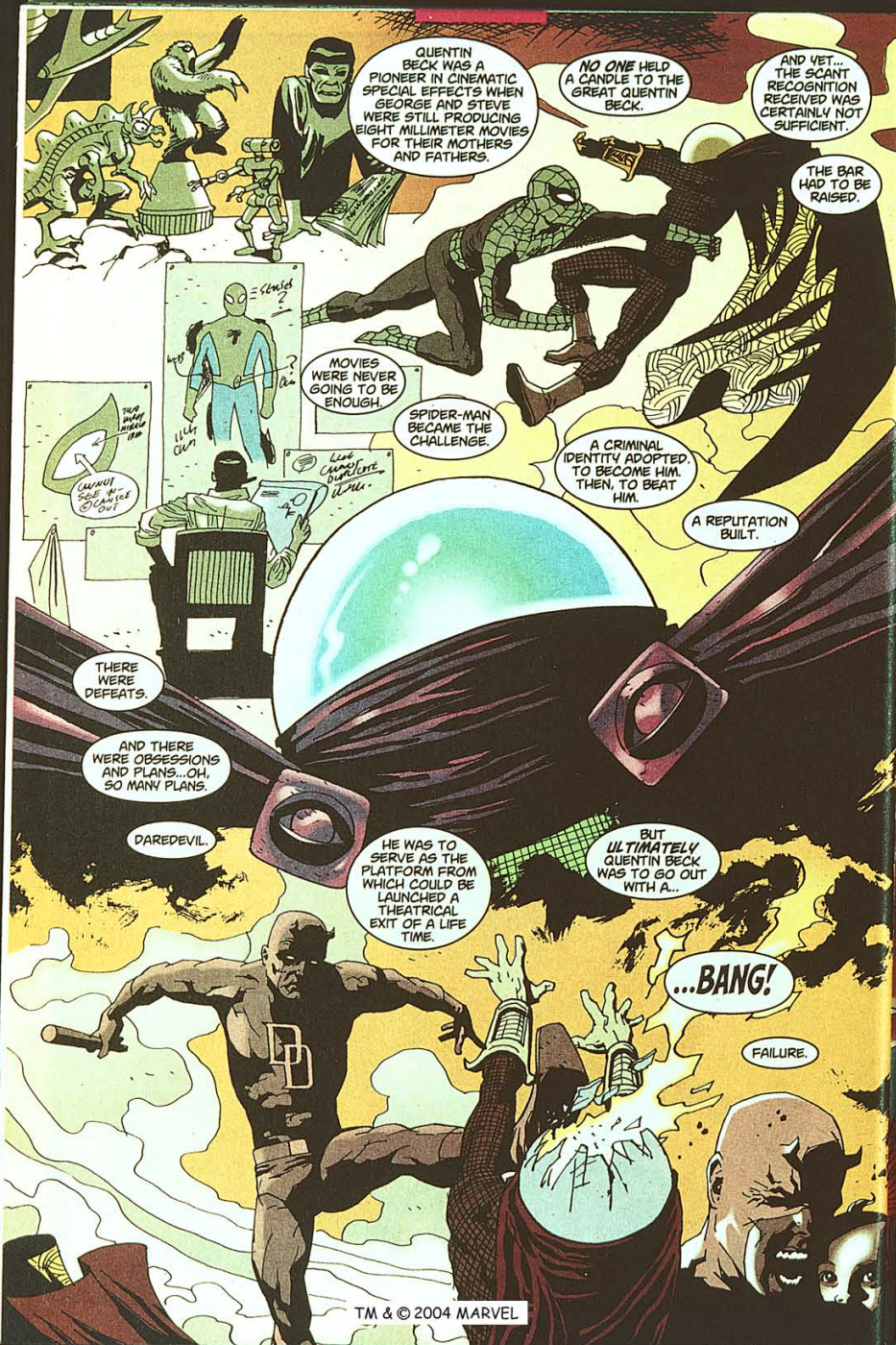
HOWARD MACKIE / SEAN PHILIPS
story and art

JOE ROSAS
colors

RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT'S TROY PETERI
letters

RALPH MACCHIO
editor

BOB HARRAS
chief



QUENTIN BECK WAS A PIONEER IN CINEMATIC SPECIAL EFFECTS WHEN GEORGE AND STEVE WERE STILL PRODUCING EIGHT MILLIMETER MOVIES FOR THEIR MOTHERS AND FATHERS.

NO ONE HELD A CANDLE TO THE GREAT QUENTIN BECK.

AND YET... THE SCANT RECOGNITION RECEIVED WAS CERTAINLY NOT SUFFICIENT.

THE BAR HAD TO BE RAISED.

MOVIES WERE NEVER GOING TO BE ENOUGH.

SPIDER-MAN BECAME THE CHALLENGE.

A CRIMINAL IDENTITY ADOPTED TO BECOME HIM. THEN, TO BEAT HIM.

A REPUTATION BUILT.

THERE WERE DEFEATS.

AND THERE WERE OBSESSIONS AND PLANS... OH, SO MANY PLANS.

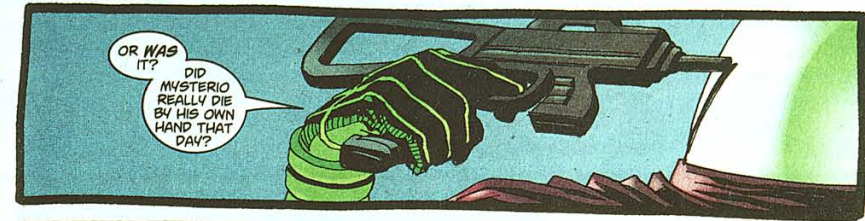
DAREDEVIL.

HE WAS TO SERVE AS THE PLATFORM FROM WHICH COULD BE LAUNCHED A THEATRICAL EXIT OF A LIFE TIME.

BUT ULTIMATELY QUENTIN BECK WAS TO GO OUT WITH A...

...BANG!

FAILURE.



OR WAS IT? DID MYSTERIO REALLY DIE BY HIS OWN HAND THAT DAY?



OR WAS IT JUST ANOTHER IN A SERIES OF ILLUSIONS?

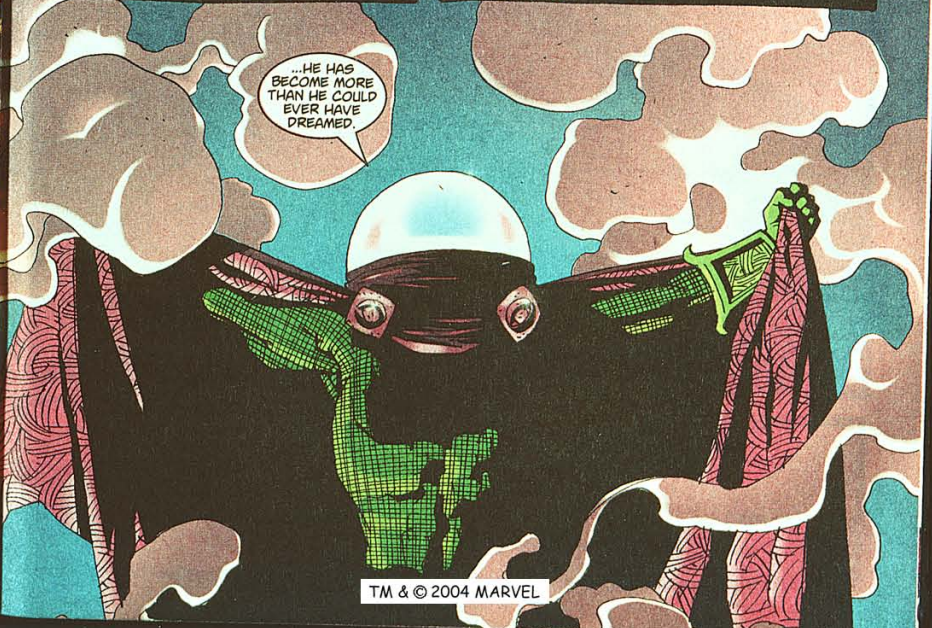
WHERE IN LIFE DOES THE ILLUSION END AND THE REALITY BEGIN?



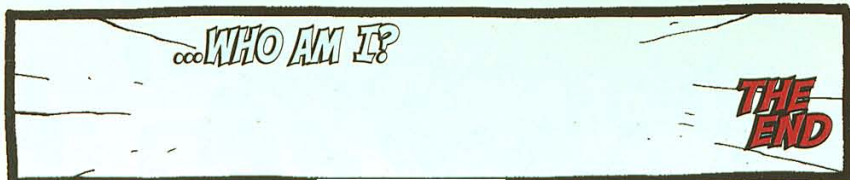
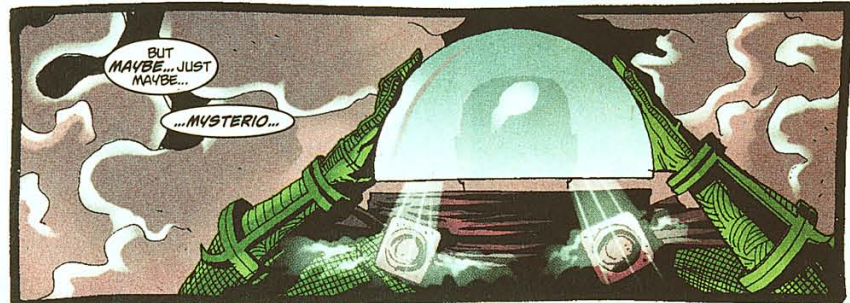
OR MAYBE... JUST MAYBE...

...IN DEATH QUENTIN BECK HAS TRANSCENDED THE EARTHLY PLANE.

MAYBE...



...HE HAS BECOME MORE THAN HE COULD EVER HAVE DREAMED.



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THE SPIDER'S WEB

MATT HICKS
ASSISTANT
EDITOR

RALPH MACCHIO
EDITOR

BOB HARRAS
CHIEF



Dear Spider's Web,
The two-part "Perfect World" storyline was a rather interesting look at a supporting character who has been around since page one. It seems that Flash has taken over Peter's former role of "bad luck kid" in recent years and I hope the end of this story paves the way for better things ahead for him. I also hope, just like Peter does, that the explanation of when and how Peter and all the others were captured is explained in Mysterio's next appearance.

I also wish to address the issue of Peter hiding the fact that he is again swinging through the city as everyone's friendly neighborhood Spider-Man from Mary Jane. I really want Mary Jane to react in a realistic way to Peter's betrayal when she finds out. In lying to Mary Jane, Peter is cheating on her but instead of with a woman, he does it as Spider-Man. And when I say realistic, I don't mean to say that I want them to get a divorce, only that I don't believe the issue should be glossed over. But knowing Howard Mackie, I'm sure he's got a resolution cooked up that I couldn't even begin to dream of. Hey, it might be a good time for Aunt May to figure out that Peter is Spider-Man. Maybe? Could be?

Richard Scranton
Jacksonville, FL

Glad you enjoyed "Perfect World" so much, Richard. Is Flash's not as hard luck over? Maybe, maybe not. As for how Mysterio managed to spirit everyone away, you'll just have to wait and see.

You're clearly not alone in your comments on Peter's current situation with his secret ID, either. As you've seen in recent issues, though, there has been some progress on this subplot, with more to come!

Dear Spider's Web,

The ending to the "Perfect World" storyline was unexpected indeed. At first, Mysterio had entered my mind as the "Man Behind the Curtain" because it fit his modus operandi. However, I quickly tossed this theory out on account of his current battle with Daredevil. Also, it appeared that the diabolical plot was beyond his abilities. Judging from AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #7-8, as well as the aforementioned DAREDEVIL story arc, it is apparent that Mr. Quentin Beck has improved his powers and gone from being a bitter man to an evil one. Well, good for him; it makes his character much more interesting.

One preemptive gripe I have, though, is that it looks as if the kidnapping of Peter's family and friends will be swept under the rug, never to be mentioned again. Please don't let this happen. Something this traumatizing and its subsequent effects should be explored, at least for one issue. I have faith in Howard Mackie that it will.

Terence Connors PMM
Rochelle Park, NJ

Sweep story events under the rug? Would we do that? Certainly not! Or at least not on purpose.

Glad to hear you like the amped-up Mysterio, too, although you're really the only one to applaud his decision to "choose evil," as it were. That's really not being very

supportive of Mr. Beck, now, is it?

Dear Ralf,

At first, I was going to let this pass by. Then I decided, "What the heck, I'll get this and the preceding issue and read all of "Perfect World" in one sitting, because that's the only way I'll get a handle on this wacky plot."

Turns out, this was absolutely necessary. I for one was not prepared for a revamped, upgraded Mysterio. (I don't read DAREDEVIL, so I had no idea he'd been over there and that Kevin Smith had done the upgrading. Bravo.) So this guy kidnaps Peter, Mary Jane, Aunt May, Flash, et al., and puts them in some bizarre VR fantasyland attuned to Flash's brainwaves, wherein Flash is the big hero, Spidey's the sidekick, and everyone else wants to form a fan club for Flash. This much we understood: Flash had never completely gotten over his hero-worship of Spidey, but wished he was as much "the man" in people's eyes as he was the "Big Man on Campus" in school. Mysterio preyed upon this, but what's with Mysterio's obsession with unmasking the webhead? This is new, and it's not something that comes out of that opening storyline over in WEBSPINNERS, or at least I don't think it does.

What bugs me majority is the restoration of Flash as a bully-type who has no use for Peter or anyone else, and this is after he and Peter had been friends for years. This is easily explained away as the result of Flash being shocked back to reality so abruptly after living in that fantasy world. What apparently has happened is that some deep-rooted jealousy between Peter and Flash over Mary Jane has come to the surface, and Flash has had trouble dealing with this. The VR only made things worse.

It hasn't been a year since the relaunch, and already we've seen Sandman go back to being a villain and we've seen the apparent dissolution of a long-running friendship. Venom is on the horizon, and we already know he's reverted to his "evil" ways. What's next? Putting Black Cat back on the wrong side of the law? I hope not. Felicia Hardy is to Spider-Man what Catwoman is to Batman. "Nuff said there. Scorpion's in the on-deck circle, and he too has been upgraded in terms of power, but the jury's out on him. Doctor Octopus has been dealt with, most recently over in SPIDER-WOMAN, and Kingpin lurks in the shadows. What about the Vulture? Chameleon? Hammerhead?

I second Brendan Walsh's comment about MJ meeting up with Millie the Model. It's been what, nearly 30 years since we last saw Millie? I think she's waaaaay overdue. Considering that John and Scott have done an excellent job with MJ from the jump, one would think Millie and Chili would be a bonus.

Jacob Gilbert
Troy, NY

Thanks for the well-thought-out letter, Jacob. We particularly enjoyed your psychological insights into how Flash reacted to having to leave his "Perfect World." It's one thing to have a chance to live out your fantasy, but it's altogether more embittering when it's one based solely on glories well in the past.

As for Millie and Chili...well,

don't hold your breath. Although stranger things have happened...

Dear Spider's Web,

I'm just dropping you a line to let you know how much I'm enjoying the Spider-Man revamp.

It would appear that there has been mixed reaction to SPIDER-MAN: CHAPTER ONE, which I suppose was to be expected. For myself, I am enjoying experiencing these stories from a modern slant and feel the new touches are valid. However, I do think the way Byrne has been dropping us into the middle of a new story straight after the last cliffhanger has led to a rather disappointed read, particularly when the series is collected for the inevitable trade paperback.

I have always enjoyed Byrne's pencils but have usually found his art to be a little too sketchy when he inks himself. However, I am most impressed with the ink of Scott Hanna. I was struck this issue by the resemblance to J. Scott Campbell's artwork, particularly the panels featuring Mary Jane and Gwen Stacy (no bad thing). Of course, it doesn't hurt that your guys can actually get a book out on schedule.

I really enjoyed the last two-part, but then I've always been a sucker for alternate universe stories, even though that was not actually the case. It was nice to see the reference to Mysterio's recent activities in DAREDEVIL, and it makes sense that his illusions should become more realistic, what with today's current CGI wonders.

Keep up the good work; as with most of Marvel's current output featuring the classic heroes, if the stories and art continue to be this enjoyable, you will have a long-term reader.

Paul Holgate
South Yorkshire, England

Nice to hear from you, Paul. Glad to see you've been enjoying the book, as well as Scott's inks over John's pencils. Unfortunately, Scott's one of the busiest inkers in comics, and something had to give. But on the bright side, we'll be welcoming Dandy Dan Green as our regular inker next issue!

NEXT ISSUE:

THINGS WITH MARY JANE COME TO A HEAD NEXT MONTH! PETER PROMISES TO SEE MJ OFF AT THE AIRPORT, BUT RUNS SMACK INTO ONE OF HIS WORST FOES ON THE WAY! WILL THIS BE THE FINAL STRAW? THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO KNOW FOR SURE, AND THAT'S TO ROUND UP 999 PENNIES AND SEE WHAT HOWARD, JOHN AND DAN HAVE IN STORE. RALF WILL BE BUSY TRYING TO COUNT TO 999.

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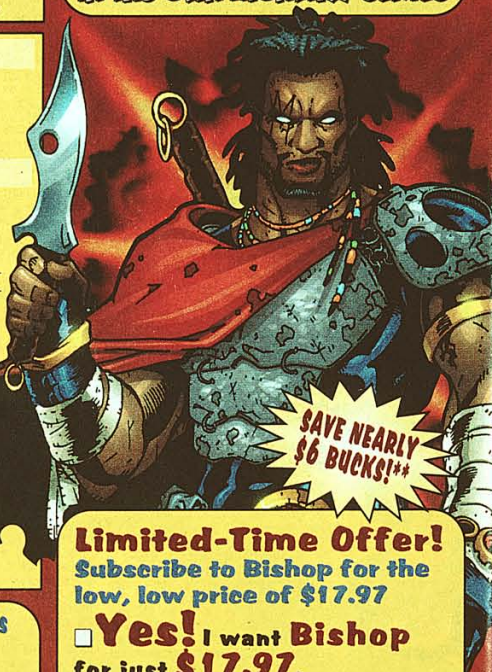
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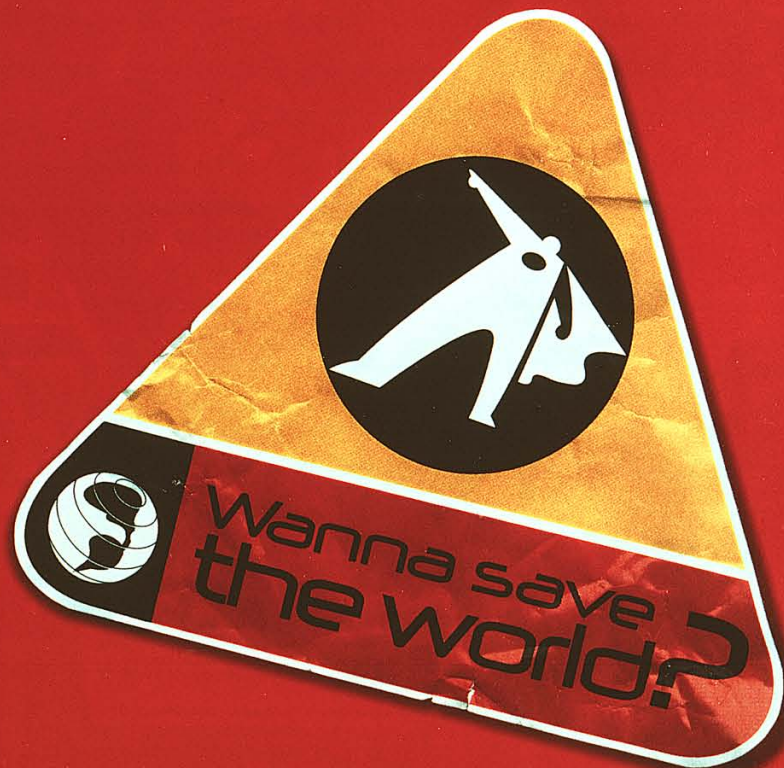
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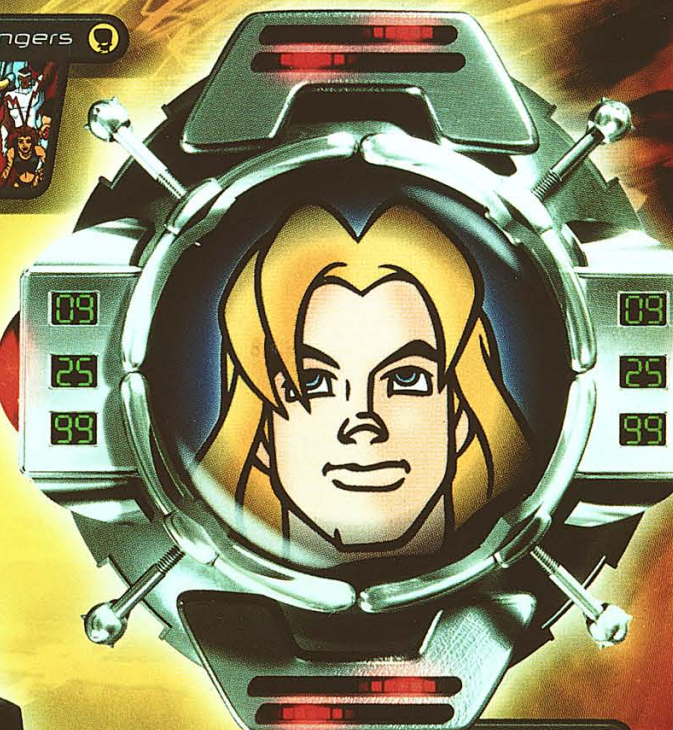
Relax. That's what these guys are for.



The Avengers

THE WORLD'S #1 CRIME-FIGHTING TEAM HAS DECLARED WAR ON EVIL. UH-OH. EVIL JUST WET ITS PANTS.

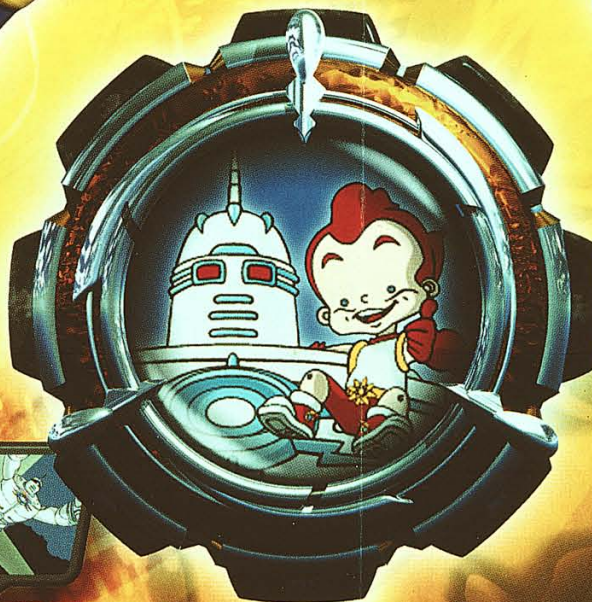
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